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SPORTS

Winchester girls volleyball ready to repeat last year's long postseason run

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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Winchester High volleyball players Hazel Lovins, left, Johanna Melhorn and Julia Campo are ready to lead their team to victory in the postseason. Lovins is a junior captain and outside hitter, Melhorn is a senior captain and middle hitter and Campo is senior captain and defensive specialist. COURTESY PHOTOS/WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

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John Fleming is beginning his 16th year as head coach of the Winchester High girls volleyball team. Last year, Fleming guided his team to a 20-3 overall record, before dropping a Division 1 Elite 8 matchup to Needham.

The team was the 13th seed in the final power rankings, and went on to beat Andover and Attleboro by identical 3-1 scores to begin the state tournament, only to fall to the Rockets, the fifth seed, by the exact same score.

Fleming will carry 14 players on varsity this fall, with their understudies learning their craft on the JV and freshman levels.

Of the 14 varsity players, a total of 10 are back from last year, and some of them were starters.

"There are always things to work on, and that will continue throughout the season," said Fleming. "Serving and receiving is an area that we will focus on this season, and our blocking is another area that we want to continue to get better at, as well."

Seniors Johanna Melhorn (middle hitter) and Julia Campo (defensive specialist), and junior Hazel Lovins (outside hitter) are this year's captains.

The Red & Black warmed up for the season with a quad scrimmage at Lincoln-Sudbury against Medfield, Wachusett and of course the host Warriors on Aug. 22.

"It was great to mix the lineup up, and get our first look playing against other teams," said Fleming.

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The Winchester girls followed up that scrimmage with another one against Bedford, N.H. on Aug. 26.

"They are the best high school program in the Granite State," said Fleming. "I believe they have won four straight state titles and over 100 consecutive matches. We tried to play it as close to a real scrimmage as possible, and ended up winning the first three sets, before dropping the last one."

The team then returned to New Hampshire for a jamboree at Salem High School with 19 other schools throughout New Hampshire and Massachusetts on Aug. 30, and Fleming's crew ended up winning the whole thing.

"We dug ourselves a few big holes, but found a way to fight back each time, which is a great thing to see so early in the year," said the veteran Winchester coach.

But in the end, everything depends on how they do against the Middlesex League, and Fleming knows that taking on their rivals will be the biggest tests of the year before the postseason.

"I think the Middlesex League will once again be very challenging," he said. "Melrose is always tough; Reading has a few really talented young players, who are going to have great seasons; while Woburn graduated a big group, but I think they will be very good once again this year, despite those losses."

Any winning head coach needs a strong staff of assistants to maintain success. Jackie Oliver is back as Fleming's longtime varsity assistant and JV coach, and Liz Ehl and Tia Fiorentino, two of the program's former players, are his freshman coaches.

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The Red & Black successfully opened up the regular season at home on Sept. 3 with a 3-0 shutout win over Wilmington. They will then be at Arlington on Friday, Sept. 5, to take on the Spy Ponders at 5:30 p.m., and will remain on the road next week to face hosts Stoneham (Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m.) and Woburn (Sept. 11, 5:30 p.m.).

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Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the Meet at North Andover Hig Nature gave them a break to rest and

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Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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SPORTS

Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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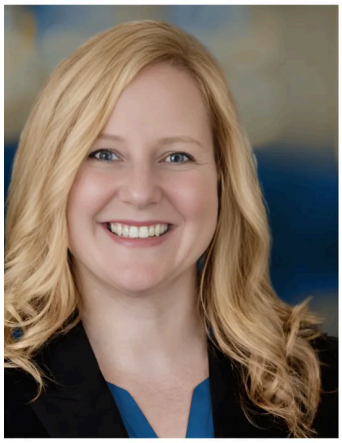

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and

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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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